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# Information Alert

From the National Agricultural Library



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture



Press Release — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Brian Norris, (301) 504-6778

FAX: (301) 504-5472; TTY: 504-6856

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USDA LIBRARY  
BELTSVILLE  
ANCHOR

July 1993



# Information Alert

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United States  
Department of  
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### PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Subject contact:**

Telephone: (301) 504-5204

FAX: (301) 504-7098; TTY: (301) 504-6856

**Media contact: Brian Norris**

Telephone: (301) 504-6778

FAX: (301) 504-5472; TTY: (301) 504-6856

### NAL Now Accepts Reference Requests over Internet

Beltsville, MD – People worldwide now have access, by computer, to reference services of the National Agricultural Library (NAL) through the Internet telecommunications system of the National Science Foundation.

On May 1, NAL's Reference Section began accepting requests for reference services over the Internet. The Internet address to reach NAL is: "agref@nalusda.gov".

NAL is the largest agricultural library in the world with a collection of over 2.2 million volumes.

NAL's Reference Section provides reference and information assistance nationally and internationally. Services are provided to federal, state and local government scientists, researchers, and officials; professors, researchers and students at universities and colleges; private scientific, business and agricultural organizations; the general public and foreign government agencies.

According to Keith Russell, NAL's Associate Director for Public Services, the NAL Internet mailbox is screened for reference requests daily and requests are assigned to an NAL reference librarian for response.

"In most cases, requests for bibliographic information are searched on NAL's bibliographic database, AGRICOLA, which contains 3 million citations for agricultural materials worldwide," Russell said.

Russell said that "comprehensive searches" may require NAL to charge a fee. Comprehensive searches are those that require NAL to search commercial online databases and that exceed a \$25.00 charge to fill, or those that require more than one hour of the NAL librarian's time (charged at \$11.00 per hour).

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User fees are assessed only upon prior agreement with the user and are only charged for work over the one-hour limit, Russell said.

Further information on accessing NAL through Internet, on user fees or on NAL publications is available by contacting:

USDA/NAL/REF  
National Agricultural Library  
10301 Baltimore Boulevard, Room 111  
Beltsville, MD 20705-2351

Telephone (301) 504-5204  
TTY: (301) 504-6856;FAX: (301) 504-7098;  
Internet: jforbes@nalusda.gov

NAL is one of three national libraries of the United States, with the Library of Congress and the National Library of Medicine.

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FAX: (301) 504-7098; TTY: (301) 504-6856

**Media contact: Brian Norris**

Telephone: (301) 504-6778

FAX: (301) 504-5472; TTY: (301) 504-6856

### NAL Reports Aid U.S. Hardwood Industry

Beltsville, MD – The Technology Transfer Information Center (TTIC) of the National Agricultural Library (NAL) has produced a series of reports to help the U.S. hardwood industry deal with some of the most perplexing problems associated with harvesting and milling hardwood.

Specifically, the four reports offer procedures for detecting "wetwood" in trees, logs and boards; finding alternatives to petroleum-based biocides to protect hardwood lumber and manufactured products; detecting external and internal defects to improve the milling of hardwood logs and lumber; and new cutting technologies for processing logs, boards and other value-added wood products.

Assisting TTIC in the preparation of the reports were the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Extension Service, The National Institute of Standards and Technology of the U.S. Department of Commerce, the University of Maine and the Hardwood Research Council.

According to Kate Hayes, TTIC Coordinator, the reports are the results of a two-year project to identify and transfer new technology that would aid the U.S. hardwood industry.

"The U.S. hardwood industry is an important part of the U.S. economy," Hayes said. "Hardwood lumber produced in 1990 was valued at more than \$3.5 billion. The industry employs more than 700,000 workers, and sales of all hardwood products reach around \$65 billion annually. However, the industry faces problems, including a shortage of raw materials and processing techniques that are becoming increasingly more expensive."

Hayes said the technologies identified in this series of reports will help the U.S. hardwood industry stay competitive in the world marketplace by allowing closer tolerances and higher yields from the hardwoods that are harvested and milled.

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Copies of the four reports were provided to U.S. hardwood, manufacturing, and supplier organizations and industries "that can either implement the technologies recently entering the market, develop uncommercialized technologies further, or license them to create new products, processes, or services."

TTIC is one of eleven specialized information centers established by the National Agricultural Library to keep abreast of information on critical issues facing U.S. agriculture. Other centers cover agricultural trade and marketing, alternative farming systems, animal welfare, aquaculture, biotechnology, food and nutrition, plant genome, rural information, youth development, and water quality.

NAL is the largest agricultural library in the world with a collection of over 2.2 million volumes. With the Library of Congress and the National Library of Medicine, NAL is one of three national libraries of the United States.

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## From the National Agricultural Library



### PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Subject contact:**

Telephone: (301) 504-6559

FAX: (301) 504-6409; TTY: (301) 504-6856

**Media contact: Brian Norris**

Telephone: (301) 504-6778

FAX: (301) 504-5472; TTY: (301) 504-6856

### NAL Names First Private Farmland Information Center

Beltsville, MD – The National Agricultural Library (NAL) has selected American Farmland Trust (AFT) to operate the nation's first Farmland Information Center.

AFT, a national farmland conservation group based in Washington, D.C., will work with NAL's Alternative Farming Systems Information Center (AFSIC) to create an electronically based farmland information storage and retrieval system that is accessible to the public. AFT's research and education facility in Dekalb, Illinois, will administer the new center.

Farmland information centers were authorized by the Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981. That measure committed the federal government to safeguarding the nation's agricultural land resources against unnecessary conversion to other uses and charged the centers with collecting and distributing information on farmland loss and protection.

According to AFSIC Coordinator Jane Gates, the designation of AFT as a Farmland Information Center will aid in farmland conservation and protection "by providing quick and easy access to comprehensive information on U.S. agricultural land resources."

"Having this access will give the farmers, scientists and policy-makers involved in farmland conservation a better understanding of the issue," Gates said.

As a Farmland Information Center, AFT will collect and distribute information on the types, classifications and location of farmland, soils and related natural resources; urban development and growth patterns affecting agricultural land use and its impact on the environment; planning and other tools for farmland protection; and the economic, social and environmental costs of protecting farmland. Founded in 1980, AFT already has a large collection of information on agricultural land resources.

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For additional information contact Jane Gates at (301) 504-6559; TTY: (301) 504-6856; FAX: (301) 504-6409, or write to:

Jane Gates, Coordinator  
Alternative Farming Systems Information Center  
National Agricultural Library, Room 109  
10301 Baltimore Boulevard  
Beltsville, MD 20705-2351

NAL is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and, with the Library of Congress and the National Library of Medicine, is one of three national libraries of the United States.

NAL's Alternative Farming Systems Information Center was established by Congress to encourage research, education and information delivery about farming systems that preserve the natural resource base while maintaining economic viability. AFSIC provides information on farming methods that maintain the health and productivity of natural resources, as well as that of U.S. farming.

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# Information Alert

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## PRESS RELEASE—FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Subject contact:**

Telephone: (301) 504-5509

FAX: (301) 504-6409; TTY: (301) 504-6856

**Media contact: Brian Norris**

Telephone: (301) 504-6778

FAX: (301) 504-5472; TTY: (301) 504-6856

### NAL Issues Bibliography on Global Trade

Beltsville, MD—The National Agricultural Library (NAL) has issued a bibliography "International Trade Policies and Global Agriculture, January 1991-February 1993," *Quick Bibliography, 93-22*, that is a listing of recent articles on international agricultural trade and worldwide policies affecting it.

A large number of the articles deal with the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Nearly 350 citations are included and citations were taken from NAL's AGRICOLA bibliographic database, which lists 3 million pieces of agricultural literature.

"This bibliography is intended to provide current awareness on the subject," said Mary Lassanyi, who compiled the bibliography. "The citations are a substantial resource for anyone investigating the topic of international agricultural trade."

Lassanyi, who is the coordinator of NAL's Agricultural Trade and Marketing Information Center (ATMIC), said the bibliography updates another that was done by NAL on GATT and global agriculture in Oct 1990 (QB 91-09). The earlier bibliography contained citations on literature from Jan. 1989 to Aug. 1990. Most of the materials listed in bibliography are available from NAL.

To obtain a copy of the bibliography, send a self-addressed label with the request to:

Agricultural Trade and Marketing Information Center  
National Agricultural Library, Room 304  
10301 Baltimore Boulevard  
Beltsville, MD 20705-2351

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For additional information contact ATMIC at:

Telephone: (301) 504-5509 [TTY: (301) 504-6856];  
FAX: (301) 504-6409

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FAX: (301) 504-5472; TTY: (301) 504-6856

### NAL Bibliography Lists U.S. Farm Policy Articles

Beltsville, MD – Citations on 285 recent articles dealing with U.S. policy on agriculture are covered in the new bibliography from the National Agricultural Library (NAL) "U.S. Farm Policy, January 1991 - February 1993," *Quick Bibliography, 93-21*.

From the 1990 Farm Bill to worldwide trends affecting U.S. agriculture, the bibliography lists articles on many recent policies shaping U.S. agriculture.

According to the bibliography's compiler, Mary Lassanyi, the bibliography would be a valuable resource to those researching or involved in other ways with U.S. farm policy.

"Items included in the bibliography cover food safety, hunger, foreign aid, forestry...nearly every issue facing U.S. agriculture today," Lassanyi said. "In these articles are contained the thoughts and ideas of some of the most respected agricultural minds in the world."

Citations in the bibliography were taken from NAL's AGRICOLA bibliographic database that contains 3 million citations to agricultural literature. Most items listed in the bibliography are available from NAL.

To obtain a copy of the bibliography, send a self-addressed label with the request to:

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10301 Baltimore Boulevard  
Beltsville, MD 20705-2351

Telephone: (301) 504-5509; FAX: (301) 504-6409; TTY: (301) 504-6856

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## PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Subject contact:**

Telephone: (301) 504-6813

FAX: (301) 504-7473; TTY: (301) 504-6856

**Media contact: Brian Norris**

Telephone: (301) 504-6778

FAX: (301) 504-5472; TTY: (301) 504-6856

### Milestone Reached with National Agricultural Library Database

Beltsville, MD – Three million is an impressive number.

There are about three million people within the boundaries of Los Angeles, the second largest city in the United States.

Three million pounds is equal to about ten full-grown blue whales, at 150 tons each.

And there are now over three million citations to agricultural literature in the AGRICOLA bibliographic database of the National Agricultural Library (NAL). NAL will celebrate this milestone on July 12.

“This is a historic occasion for the library, since AGRICOLA is the backbone of NAL’s priceless collection of agricultural knowledge,” said NAL Director Joseph H. Howard. “The more records we add to AGRICOLA, the better access people have to the collection.”

For example, Howard explained that through AGRICOLA, U.S. scientists are able to find the information that enables them to make the discoveries that keep the United States in the forefront of world agricultural production.

“So much of scientific discovery involves building on what scientists discovered in the past,” Howard said. “Having access to that past research is the key. That is what AGRICOLA provides. By continually expanding the database, we are better able to serve agricultural scientists and researchers and, indirectly, the world agricultural community.”

AGRICOLA (the accent on the second syllable) means “farmer” in Latin, but at NAL it stands for *AGRICultural OnLine Access*. Howard said it is the most complete listing of agricultural information available anywhere in the world,

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containing the bibliographic records of books, journal articles, monographs, theses, patents, software, audiovisual materials and technical reports relating to all aspects of agriculture. Subjects covered include animal production, animal welfare, aquaculture, biotechnology, conservation, ecology, economics, agricultural engineering, entomology, farm management, forestry, horticulture, hydrology, microbiology, nutrition and food science, plant science, rural sociology, soil science, veterinary medicine and wildlife protection.

Howard said that coverage is international in scope with materials in over 65 different languages from 130 countries included in AGRICOLA records.

"About 65 percent of the documents listed in AGRICOLA are in English," he said. "It is a tremendous resource to U.S. and world agriculture."

For the future, Howard expects that AGRICOLA's importance as an agricultural resource will grow yearly.

"NAL will continue to nurture, refine and develop AGRICOLA, adding documents and adding to the scope of the information contained in AGRICOLA records," he said. "As hunger intensifies throughout the world and as agricultural issues take center stage in international relations, more and more of the world's people will need the access to the priceless NAL collection that AGRICOLA affords. We expect to be ready."

Online access to AGRICOLA is offered by DIALOG Information Services and OCLC. DIALOG can be accessed through the Internet by entering "telnet dialog.com". OCLC access is available by entering "telnet epic.prod.oclc.org".

AGRICOLA is also available on CD-ROM from the company SilverPlatter.

For additional information contact:

David Goldberg  
Library Automation Branch, ISD  
National Agricultural Library  
10301 Baltimore Boulevard  
Beltsville, Maryland 20705-2351

Or Telephone: (301) 504-6813; TTY: (301) 504-6856  
FAX: (301) 504-7473; Internet: dgoldberg@nalusda.gov

The National Agricultural Library is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and, with the Library of Congress and the National Library of Medicine, one of three national libraries of the United States.

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### NAL Annual Reports Available

Beltsville, MD—The National Agricultural Library (NAL) *Annual Report for 1992* is now available. The 57-page report highlights 76 programs and activities of the library in the areas of services, collaborations with other agencies and institutions, technology, and responding to USDA initiatives and agricultural priorities, and provides related statistical data in tables and graphs.

Copies of the reports for 1989, 1990, and 1991 are also still available.

To obtain a copy of the current or previous reports, send a request with a self-addressed label to:

Shirley Evans, Secretary  
Public Affairs, Room 204  
National Agricultural Library  
10301 Baltimore Boulevard  
Beltsville, Maryland 20705-2351

The National Agricultural Library is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is the largest agricultural library in the world, containing over 2.1 million volumes and receiving 26,000 current periodical titles from throughout the world. With the Library of Congress and the National Library of Medicine, NAL is one of three national libraries of the United States.

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United States Department of Agriculture

From the National Agricultural Library

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10301 Baltimore Boulevard  
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